



## **Mission Statement**

***Our mission is to provide an aesthetically pleasing and functional Sand Creek Byway Project. We are committed to meaningful public involvement through understanding and responding to the community's vision for the Sand Creek Corridor.***

Building an alternate route on U.S. 95 on the eastern side of Sandpoint following Sand Creek has been on the drawing board since the 1940's. Now, the Sand Creek Byway project is about to become a reality. The Environmental Impact Study(EIS) was completed in 1999 and formally approved last year.

A Consultant Team has been hired by the Idaho Transportation Department for the preliminary design of the project, which will take about 18 months to complete. That's the stage we're at right now. Once the preliminary design is completed, final design work will begin, with construction scheduled to start in 2004 at an estimated cost of \$25 million.

The Sand Creek Byway will be 3.2 miles long and will connect Highway 95 from the northern end of the Long Bridge directly to Highway 200 and 95 at (the "Y"), north of Sandpoint. This will significantly reduce truck and vehicle traffic that uses U.S. 95 through Sandpoint. A partial interchange will be built on the south end of the project, so that northbound traffic can exit into town and southbound traffic can access the highway. The Idaho Transportation Department is currently studying the feasibility of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  interchange, so that southbound traffic can also exit at Sandpoint. Whether the third ramp can be built, will depend on several factors: is it warranted; the additional cost to build a  $\frac{3}{4}$  interchange; and will a supplement to the EIS be required.

**Open House  
Bonner Mall  
June 20, 3-8 PM**



**Spring 2001**



## Survey Results

Support -	72 - (59.5%)
Support, with Reservations -	18 - (15%)
Undecided -	8 - (6.5%)
Opposed -	23 - (19%)

Stakeholder interviews were conducted with more than 100 people from Nov/Dec 2000 to determine public interest in the project.

The aerial above shows the alignment of the Sand Creek Byway Project. It starts at the north end of the Long Bridge and ends at the "Y".

## Public Involvement

### Community

The Sand Creek Byway project team has placed a high priority on community involvement in the preliminary design phase. Area residents are encouraged to become actively involved in the development of this important project. We care about your opinion, and are working to keep you informed. In the coming months, if you haven't already noticed, there will be several avenues for you to learn about the project and to give us your input. All of these various opportunities, such as the Sand Creek Byway public information office, a new website, and an informational public meeting are detailed in this newsletter.

### Byway Office

The Sand Creek Byway has an office specifically dedicated to answering your questions and taking your comments. This is the first time the Idaho Transportation Department has staffed such an office for a project, solely dedicated to public involvement. Displays, maps and aerials are available for the public to review and staff is always there Monday through Friday from 1-5 p.m. to answer any of your questions. But, if we can't answer your question right away, we will find the person who can. We have professional staff that can answer all of your questions about the project. If you haven't already done so, stop by and visit us at 202 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. downtown Sandpoint.

### Website

The Idaho Transportation Department is also making project information available at your fingertips by creating a special project website. We know that you're sometimes too busy to stop by the office or attend a meeting. That's why we've made it even easier for you to get information about the project. Check us out the next time you're surfing the internet at: [www.sandcreekbyway.com](http://www.sandcreekbyway.com). If you don't find the information you're looking for, click on the contact bar and e-mail us. We promise to get back to you in a short time. Whatever your opinion or concern, we want to hear from you. It's the Idaho Transportation Department and the project team's commitment to public involvement, and your chance to get involved!





# **Sand Creek Conceptual** **Master Plan**

The **Sand Creek Conceptual Master Plan** will study possible land use and circulation issues before the Byway is constructed, rather than after. The idea was initially sponsored by the City of Sandpoint, as a planning vehicle. The City of Ponderay endorsed the idea and became a cosponsor, because approximately half of the project area of impact is within Ponderay's city limits. With both cities supporting the idea, the Idaho Transportation Department expanded the scope of public involvement for this project to include design support for completing a conceptual master plan for the areas adjoining Sand Creek.

A **public workshop** was held on **February 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Sandpoint Community Hall to gather input from residents and get an indication of priorities for possible long-range visions for the Sand Creek area. The Aesthetics and Pedestrian-Bicycle Task Forces began working with resident's input to explore options for the future of the Sand Creek area.

The **second public workshop** was held on **April 19<sup>th</sup>** in Ponderay and attracted more than 100 residents interested in reviewing the preliminary land use strategies developed through the efforts of two task forces.

Four Land Use Strategies were presented as viable options for the area of study:

- A. Recreational/Natural – may incorporate parks & possible recreational facilities
- B. Recreational/Civic – may incorporate civic center with educational facility
- C. Recreational/Stay-use – may incorporate lodging & meeting facilities
- D. Recreational/Fine Arts – may incorporate higher education with art emphasis

Recreational features were most common among all input received, regardless of any other land uses proposed. So, recreation became a common link to all land use strategies considered.

The **composite conceptual plans** from four months of community input into concepts for the future of the Sand Creek area will be presented on **June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Bonner Mall** for public comment.

The Sand Creek Conceptual Master Plan is being developed as a long-range planning tool for the cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay. Several of these ideas and plans may be incorporated into the design of the Sand Creek Byway project. The remaining ideas will be presented to the cities for use in funding future improvements.

## **Sand Creek Byway Open House**

**June 20, 2001**

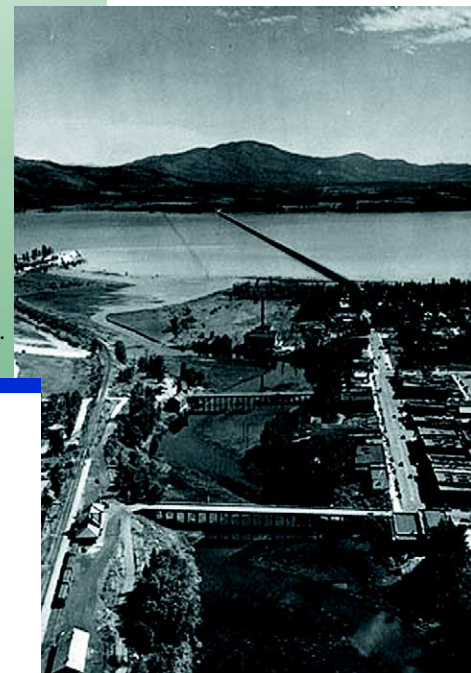
**Bonner Mall in Ponderay**

**3-8 p.m.**

You are invited to drop by anytime between the hours of 3-8 p.m.

You will also be able to see the final selected alternatives reviewed by the public for the Sand Creek Conceptual Master Plan.

**WE WANT YOUR INPUT**



A View of the three bridges of Sandpoint  
Picture Circa 1948

Photo Courtesy of Bonner Historical Society

# For Information Regarding this Project Please Contact:

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Sand Creek Byway -  
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Visit the new project website at:  
[www.sandcreekbyway.com](http://www.sandcreekbyway.com)

## Project Team:



First Avenue in Sandpoint looking North around 1920  
Photo Courtesy of Bonner Historical Society



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